

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendments and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-16 are pending in the present application. Claims 10-16 are amended by the present amendment merely to address cosmetic issues of form. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the Specification as originally filed. No new matter is introduced.

In the outstanding Office Action, a suggested specification arrangement was provided; Claim 10 was objected to as containing informalities; Claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; Claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Wotzak et al. (U.S. 6,683,383, hereafter Wotzak); and Claims 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Wotzak in view of Barsness (U.S. Publication 2004/0117443).

Initially, the specification is amended according to the suggestions provided by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action. Accordingly, it is believed that the specification now conforms to the suggested guidelines described in the outstanding Office Action.

With respect to the objection to Claim 10, it is respectfully submitted that the claim amendments made herein render the objection moot.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Claim 10 is amended to clarify that each equipment unit includes a detection circuit and Claim 15 is amended to clarify that the detection circuit isolates the group fault messages and the report. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 10-16 as anticipated by Wotzak, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended Claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, a maintenance system that includes:

a plurality of equipment units each associated with a monitoring unit ...

a central maintenance unit configured to communicate with test units of the plurality of equipment units, the central maintenance unit including a diagnosis unit configured to check a state of the plurality of equipment units by using fault messages and to generate a report on an overall state of operation of the maintenance system

wherein the central maintenance unit makes the report available on the data transmission link, and

each of the plurality of equipment units further include *a detection circuit configured to detect and capture the report from the data transmission link and to transfer the report from the data transmission link into a respective non-volatile memory unit after the report is available on the data transmission link* (Emphasis added.)

Turning to the applied reference, Wotzak describes a unified testing architecture that can be adapted for testing a variety of different complex systems.¹ More specifically, Wotzak describes a plurality of modules (28) that include module maintenance nodes (MMN, 38) serving as distributive control points to coordinate local testing at the module (28) level.² Wotzak also describes that the MMN (38) includes a processor (70).³ Wotzak further describes that a maintenance executive (10) uses a standard maintenance bus (14) to communicate commands to test the modules (28).⁴ Wotzak also describes that the

¹ Wotzak at column 1, lines 33-35.

² Id. at column 4, lines 5-33; see Figure 2.

³ Id. at column 6, lines 5-10.

⁴ Id. at column 3, lines 15-50.

maintenance executive (10) communicates test status data to a host (12) as well as status information to a resource manager (18).⁵

The outstanding Office Action identifies the processor (70) of Wotzak as corresponding to the claimed “detection circuit” of amended Claim 10.⁶ Wotzak, however, does not describe each of the equipment units include a detection circuit that detects and captures a report from the data transmission link and transfers the report from the data transmission link into a respective non-volatile memory unit after the report is available on the data transmission link. For example, Wotzak does not describe that each of the modules (28) include a detection circuit that detects and captures test status data and status information from the standard maintenance bus (14) and transfers the test status data and status information from the standard maintenance bus (14) into default memory (42) of a respective module (28) after the test status data and status information are available on the standard maintenance bus (14). Instead, Wotzak merely describes that MMN (38) includes a processor (70) and receives commands via the maintenance executive (10) to configure the plurality of modules (28) for testing.⁷ In other words, Wotzak merely describes the inclusion of the processor (70) in the MMN (38).⁸ Nowhere, however, does Wotzak describe the functionality of the processor (70), much less that the processor detects and captures test status data and status information from the standard maintenance bus (14) and transfers the test status data and status information from the standard maintenance bus (14) into default memory (42) of a respective module (28) after the test status data and status information are available on the standard maintenance bus (14). Conversely, amended Claim 10 recites *a detection circuit that detects and captures a report from the data transmission link and*

⁵ Id.; see Figure 1.

⁶ Outstanding Office Action at page 6, line 18 through page 7, line 2.

⁷ Id. at column 4, lines 5-33 and column 6, lines 5-33; see Figure 4.

⁸ Id. at column 6, lines 5-28.

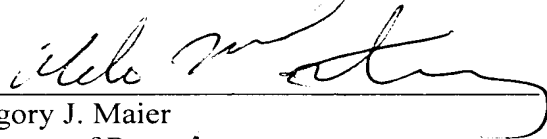
transfers the report from the data transmission link into a respective non-volatile memory unit after the report is available on the data transmission link. Therefore, Wotzak fails to describe the detection circuit of amended Claim 10. Thus, amended Claim 10, together with any claims depending therefrom, is believed to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn.

All other rejections of record rely upon Wotzak for describing the above-distinguished features. However, the above-distinguished features are not disclosed or suggested by Wotzak, alone or in combination with any other art of record. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a *prima facie* case of obviousness cannot be maintained. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of Claims 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance for Claims 10-16 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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